

THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHISM

In the meanwhile, Francesco Tebaldeschi, the last cardinal who adhered to Urban, died at Rome on September 6. A dying declaration, purporting to be his, was produced, to the effect that he died in the conviction that Urban VI was lawfully and canonically elected Pope. It seems certain that this was his belief, but by no means improbable that the document was forged in Urban's interests.¹ The Roman Pontiff was now left alone.

Queen Giovanna had received the first tidings of the elevation of her subject to the papacy with every manifestation of delight, and had sent a force of troops to Tivoli to guard his person, after the engagement at the Ponte Salaro. But at the end of August, whether offended by Urban's treatment of her husband Otho, or seduced by her chancellor, Niccolo Spinelli, with whom the Pope had quarrelled, or really impressed by the declaration of the Sacred College, she turned against him, and sent the Count of Caserta with Niccolo Spinelli himself as her representatives to Fondi.² She was supported in this course, if, indeed, it had not first been suggested to her, by a letter from the King of France.

Early in April, the Cardinal of Amiens and Pierre de Cros had warned the King not to trust the official accounts of the election. In May, a month after the event, Urban had tardily notified his elevation to Charles by two envoys who arrived at Paris in June : Cecco Tortelli, a Neapolitan knight, and Pierre de Vlurles, a kinsman of Cardinal d'Aigrefeuille. The former was faithful to his countryman. The latter had secretly accepted a rival mission from the chamberlain and the French cardinals. While ostensibly acting as the envoy of the Pope and affirming Urban's lawful election, he privately warned the King that this was not the whole truth, and gave a vivid account of the violence to which the Sacred College had been subjected.³ Not un-

¹ Cf. Raynaldus, vii. pp. 328, 329 ; Gayet, II. pp. 268-274 ; Valois, I. p. 72.

³ Cf. T. de Nyem, I. 7, 8 ; Valois, I. pp. 77, 78. There was a report spread that Urban intended to give the kingdom of Naples to Louis of Hungary, and to send Giovanna to end her days in a convent.

⁸ Valois, I. pp. 90-93. Cf. Relation of Jean le Fevre in Du Boulay, IV. >. 523, and the deposition of Pierre de Cros in Gayet, doc. 23.